



# VASAVADATTA

THE PRINCESS WHO CAPTIVATED A TRUE KSHATRIYA

Vol 674 |

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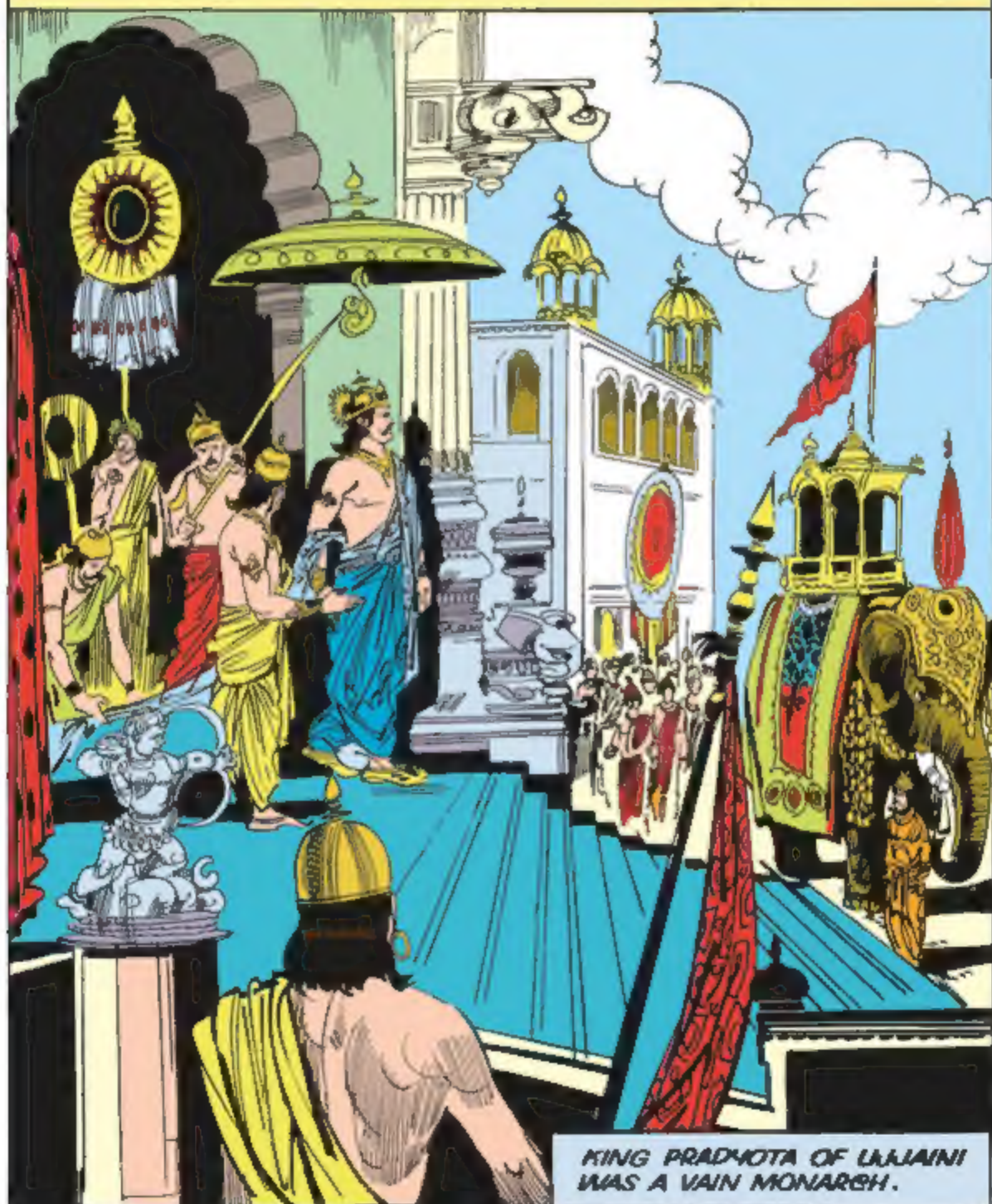
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# Vasavadatta



KING PRADYOTA OF UJJAINI  
WAS A VAIN MONARCH.



ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RETURNING FROM HIS GARDEN ~







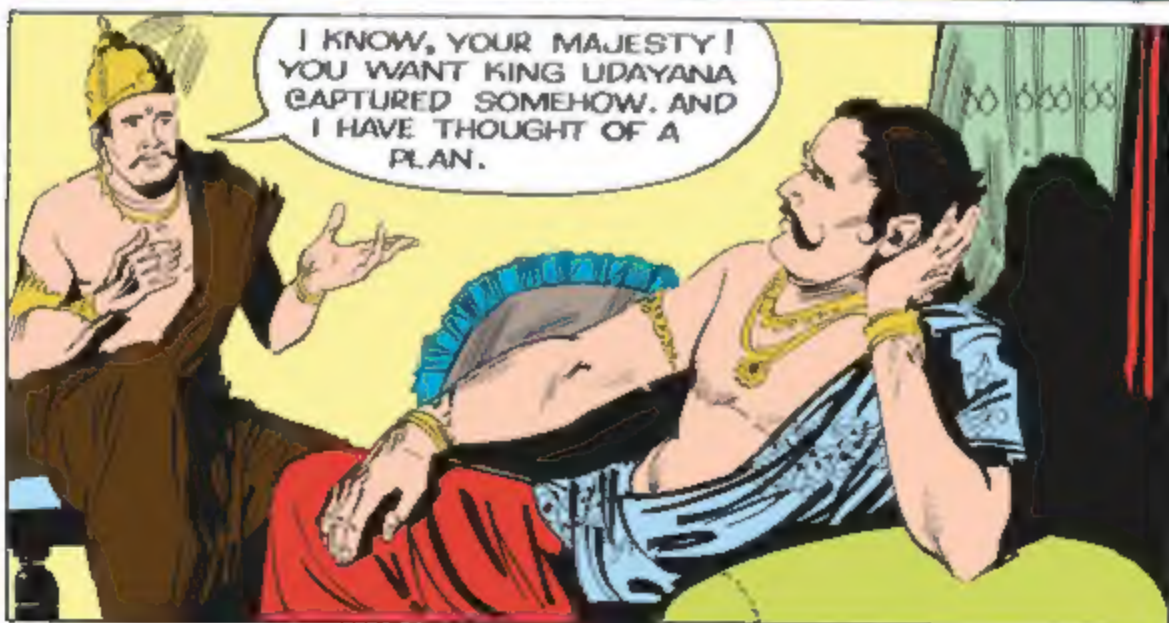
NEXT DAY IN THE COURT -













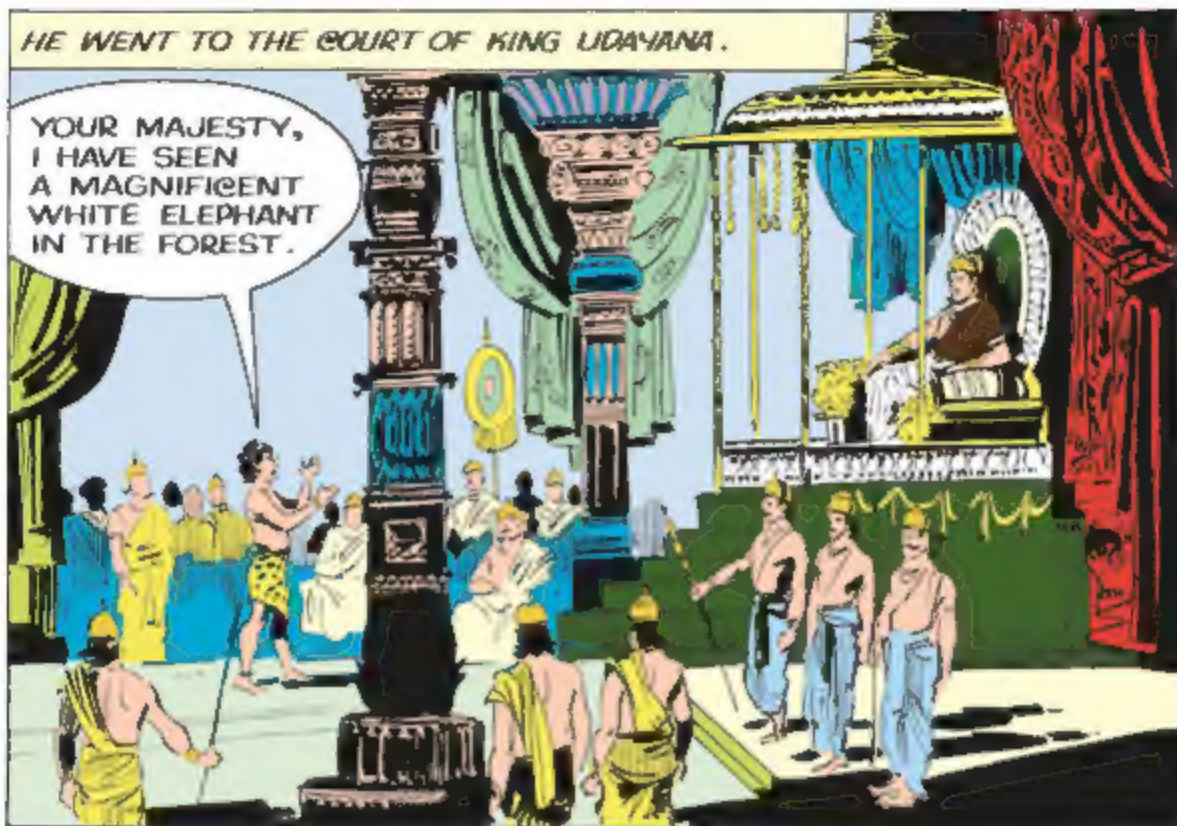
THERE WAS A THICK FOREST BETWEEN THE KINGDOMS OF UDAYANA AND PRADYOTA. ONE DAY, A FOREST DWELLER SAW A BIG WHITE ELEPHANT.





HE WENT TO THE COURT OF KING UDAYANA.

YOUR MAJESTY,  
I HAVE SEEN  
A MAGNIFICENT  
WHITE ELEPHANT  
IN THE FOREST.



UDAYANA COULD HARDLY  
WAIT TO SEE AND OWN IT.

TELL ME  
WHERE  
EXACTLY  
IT IS.  
WE WILL  
CAPTURE  
IT.



HE MOUNTED HIS ELEPHANT AND  
SET OUT.

I MUST  
HAVE  
THAT  
WHITE  
ELEPHANT.





THE SPIES OF KING PRADYOTA WERE ALERT.



AT THE COURT OF KING PRADYOTA-



THE KING THEN TURNED TO HIS COMMANDER.



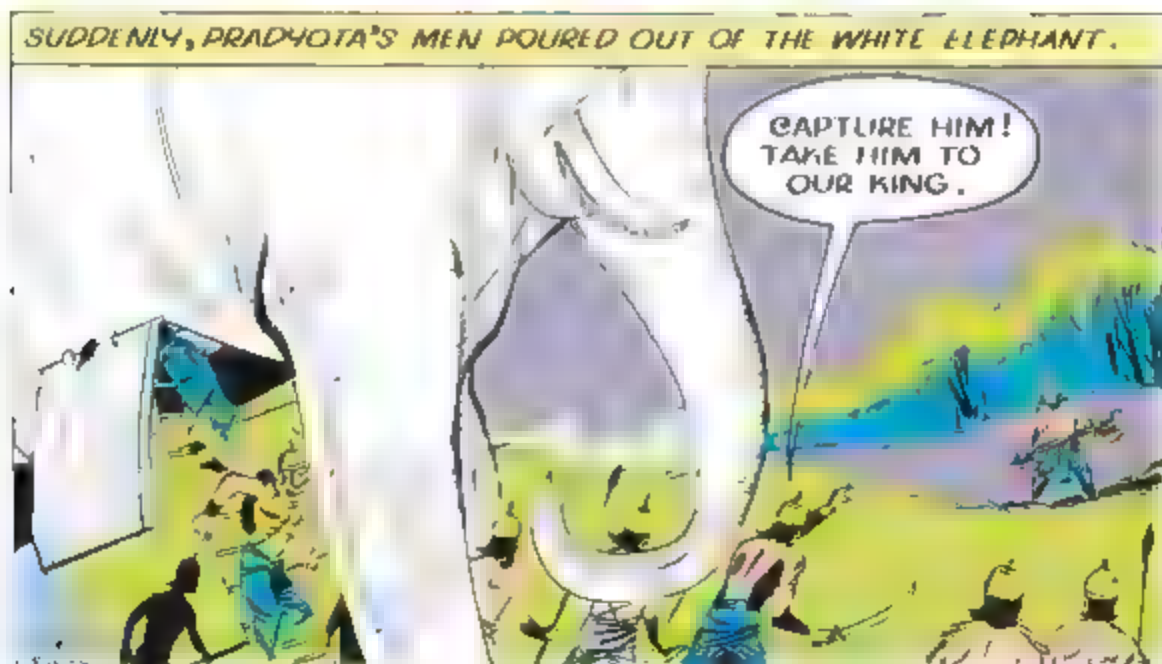


MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE FOREST -



AT THE SIGHT OF THE MAJESTIC WHITE ELEPHANT, UDAYANA GALLOPED FASTER, LEAVING BEHIND HIS MEN.







WHEN THE MEN OF KING UDAYANA REACHED THE SPOT -



BUT, KING UDAYANA'S MINISTER WAS NOT A MAN TO LOSE HEART EASILY.

LET US BUILD A STOCKADE OUTSIDE UJJAINI AND PLAN TO FREE OUR KING.



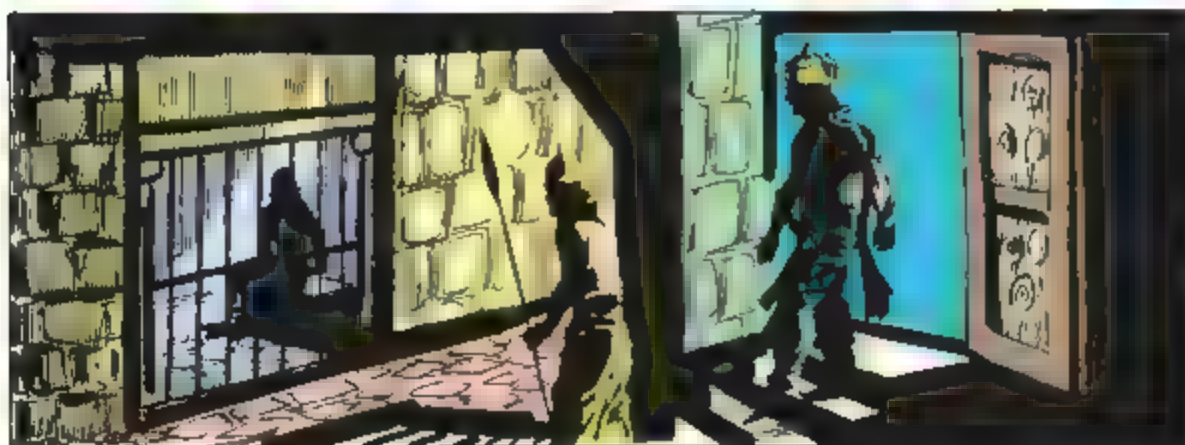
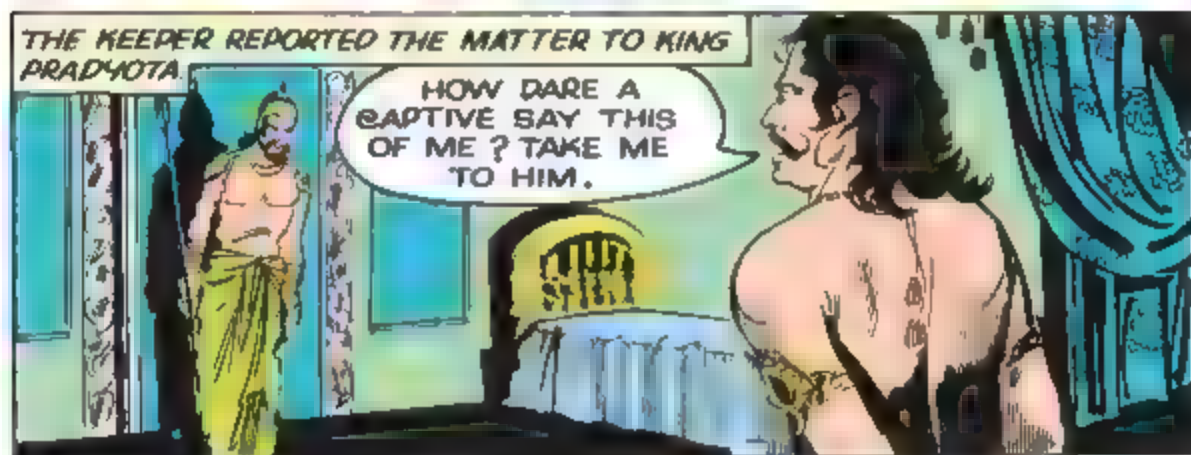
A STOCKADE WAS BUILT OUTSIDE UJJAINI AND THE MINISTER SENT MEN TO OBTAIN NEWS OF KING UDAYANA.



UDAYANA, MEANWHILE WAS HELD CAPTIVE IN PRADYOTA'S KINGDOM.













THAT  
I WILL, BUT  
ONLY IF I RECEIVE  
DUE SALUTATION  
FROM YOU.

DO YOU  
REALLY  
WANT ME  
TO PAY  
HOMAGE  
TO YOU?



WHY DO YOU LOOK  
SURPRISED? ISN'T  
IT CUSTOMARY  
FOR A PUPIL TO  
PAY HOMAGE TO  
HIS TEACHER?



I WON'T  
PAY YOU  
HOMAGE.  
AND IF  
YOU DON'T  
TEACH ME,  
I WILL  
HAVE  
YOU  
KILLED!

DO SO,  
BY ALL  
MEANS. YOU  
ARE THE LORD  
OF MY BODY,  
BUT NOT  
OF MY  
MIND.

KING PRADYOTA LEFT THE PLACE IN A RAGE.



AT THE COURT, THAT DAY -

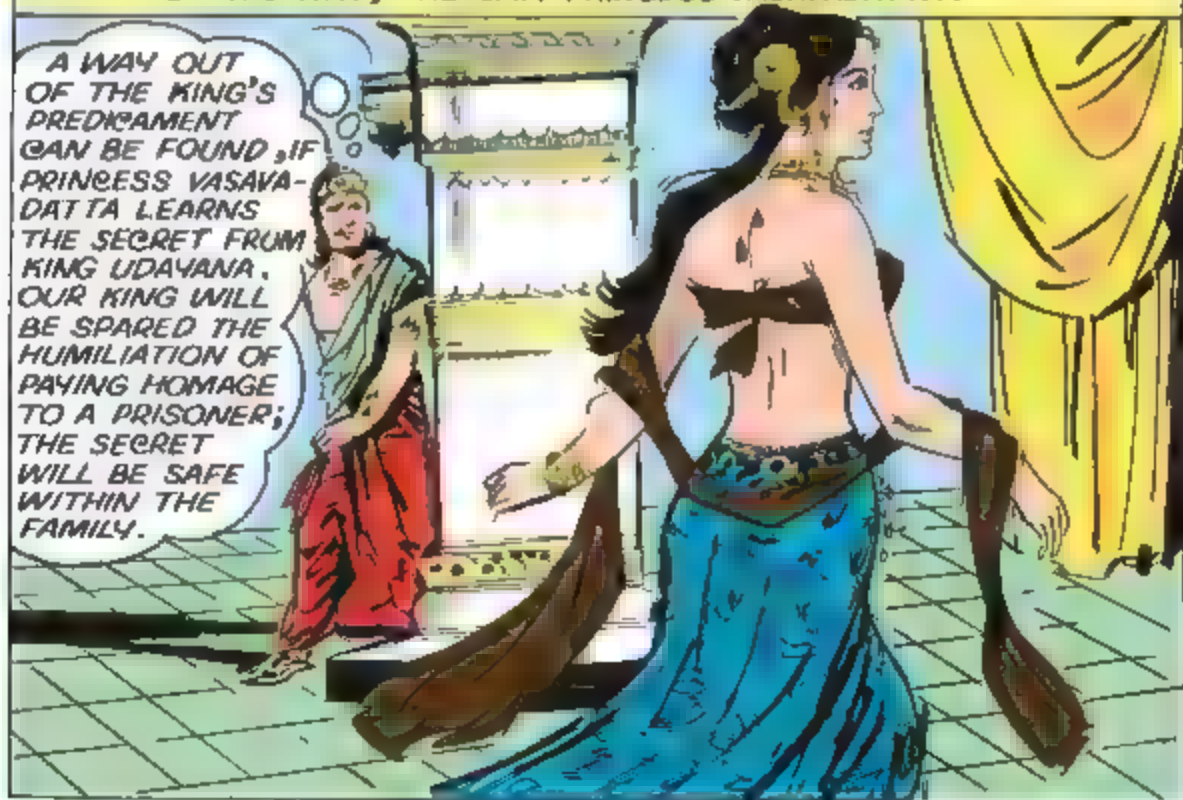
I DON'T WANT TO ATTEND TO ANYTHING. LEAVE ME ALONE.

HE IS QUITE UPSET OVER THE WORDS OF KING UDAYANA.



THE MINISTER SOUGHT THE KING'S AUDIENCE IN HIS PRIVATE CHAMBER. ON HIS WAY, HE SAW PRINCESS VASAVADATTA.

A WAY OUT OF THE KING'S PREDICAMENT CAN BE FOUND, IF PRINCESS VASAVADATTA LEARNS THE SECRET FROM KING UDAYANA. OUR KING WILL BE SPARED THE HUMILIATION OF PAYING HOMAGE TO A PRISONER; THE SECRET WILL BE SAFE WITHIN THE FAMILY.





THE KING TOO HAD THE SAME IDEA.

MINISTER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF VASAVADATTA LEARNING THE SECRET OF TAMING THE ELEPHANTS FROM KING UDAYANA?

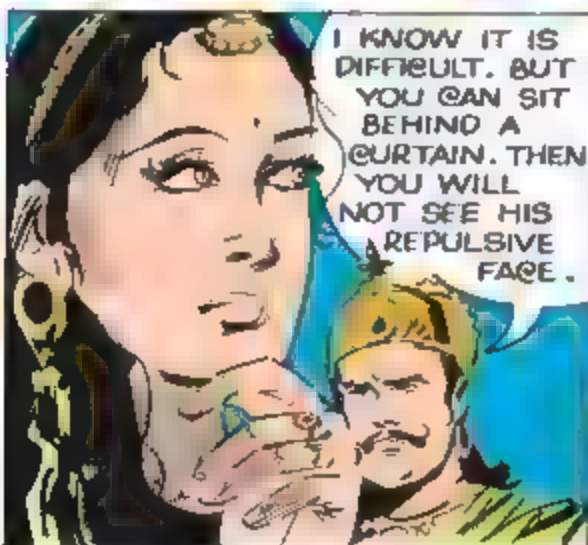
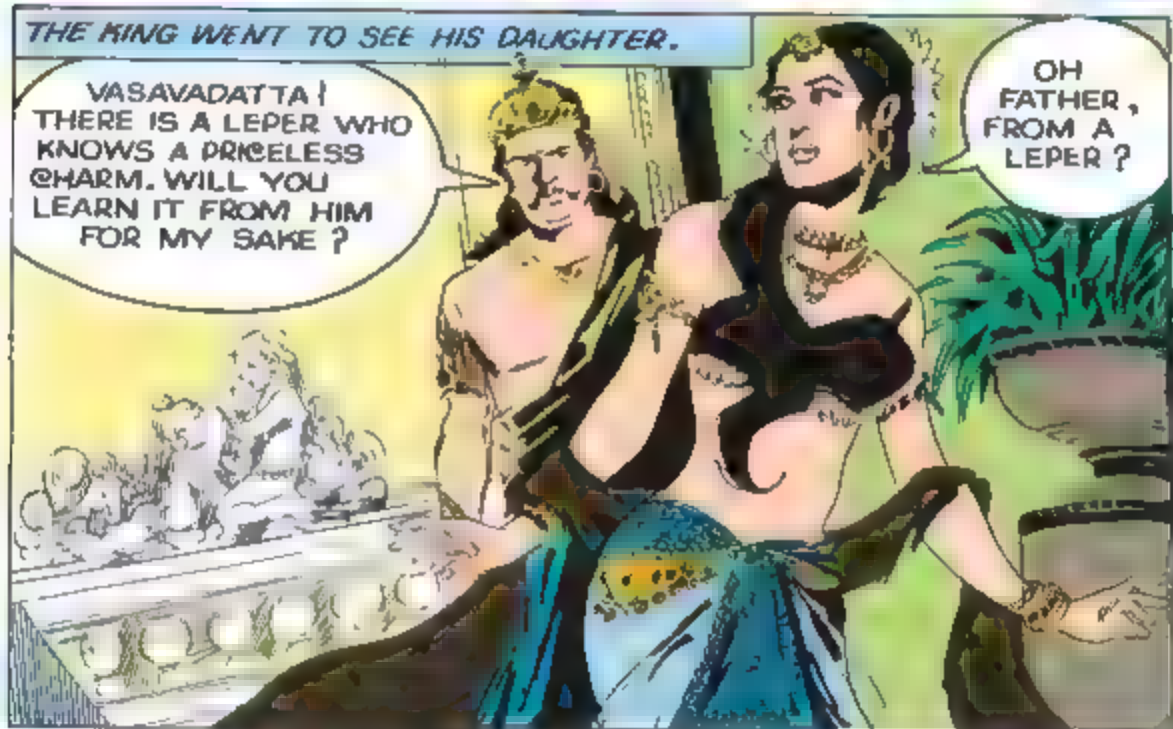
A GOOD IDEA! I TOO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

BUT I MUST ENSURE THAT THEY DON'T SEE EACH OTHER.

KING PRADYOTA WENT TO THE PRISON.

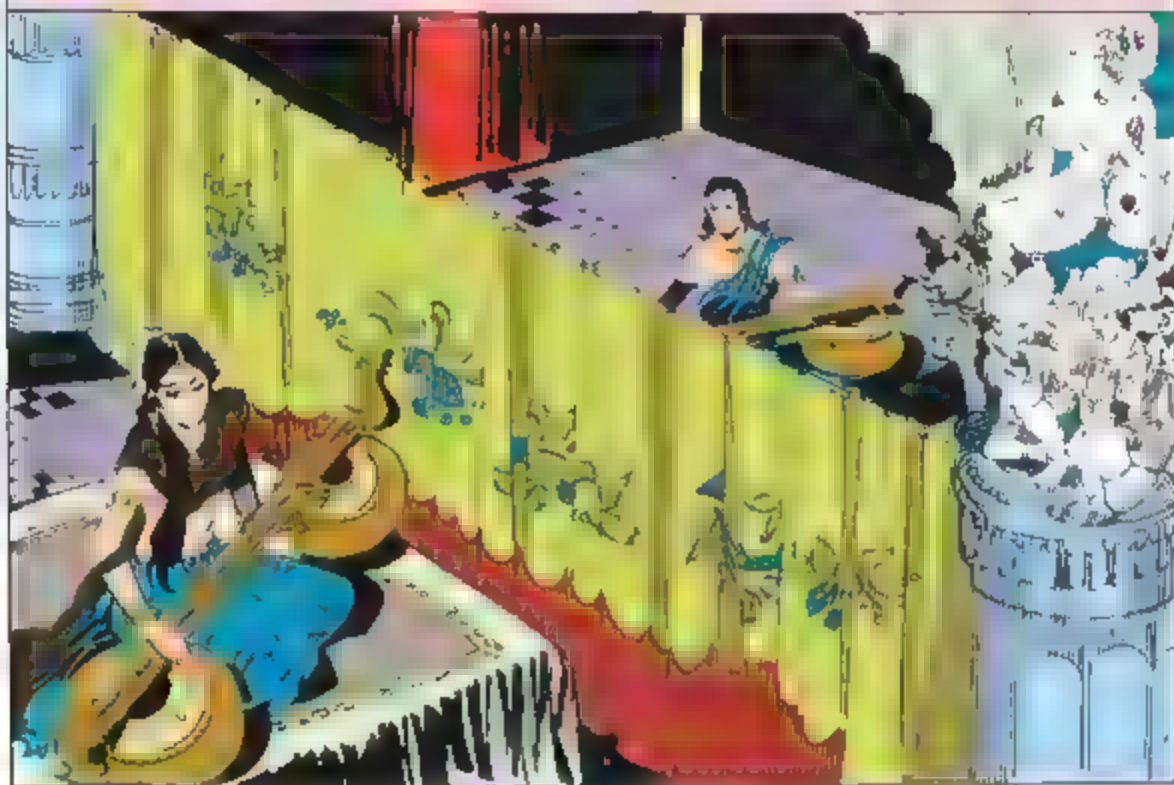
WILL YOU TEACH THE CHARM TO ANY ONE OF MY RELATIVES?

YES, WHY NOT?





AND VASAVADATTA BEGAN HER LESSONS WITH UDAYANA.



REPEAT  
THIS VERSE  
EXACTLY AS  
I SAY IT.

I'LL  
TRY.

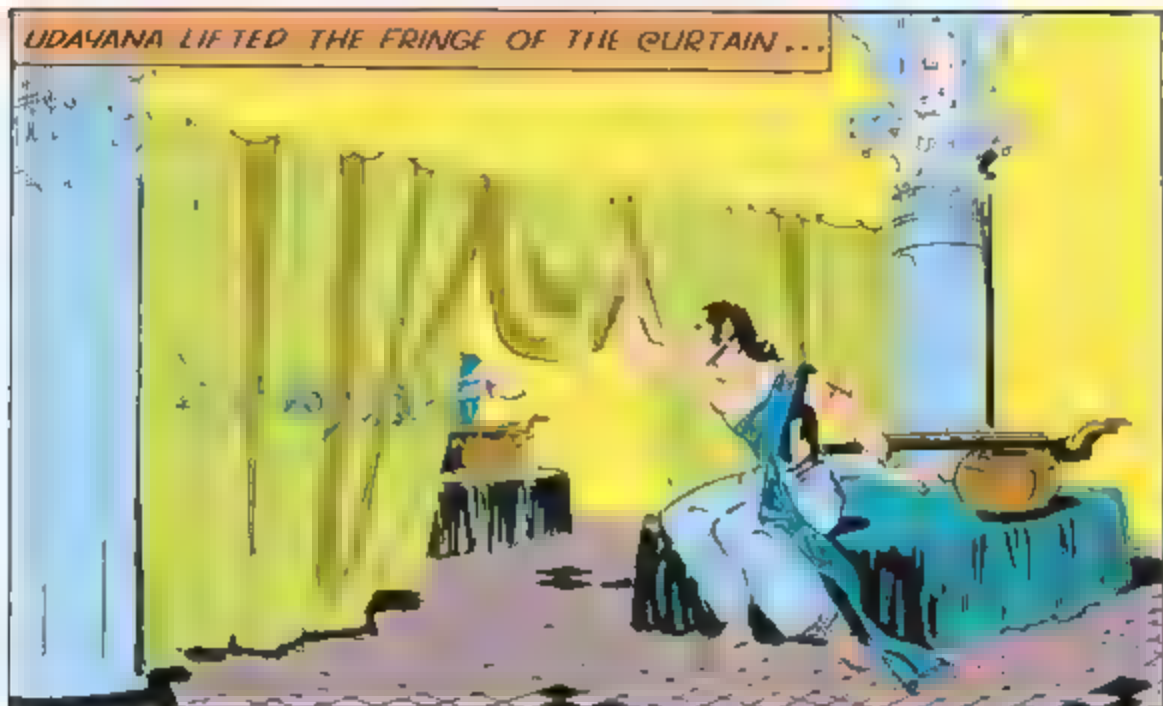


NO!  
WRONG  
AGAIN! YOU  
DUNCE OF A  
HUNCH-BACK!  
ARE YOUR  
LIPS THICK,  
TOO?

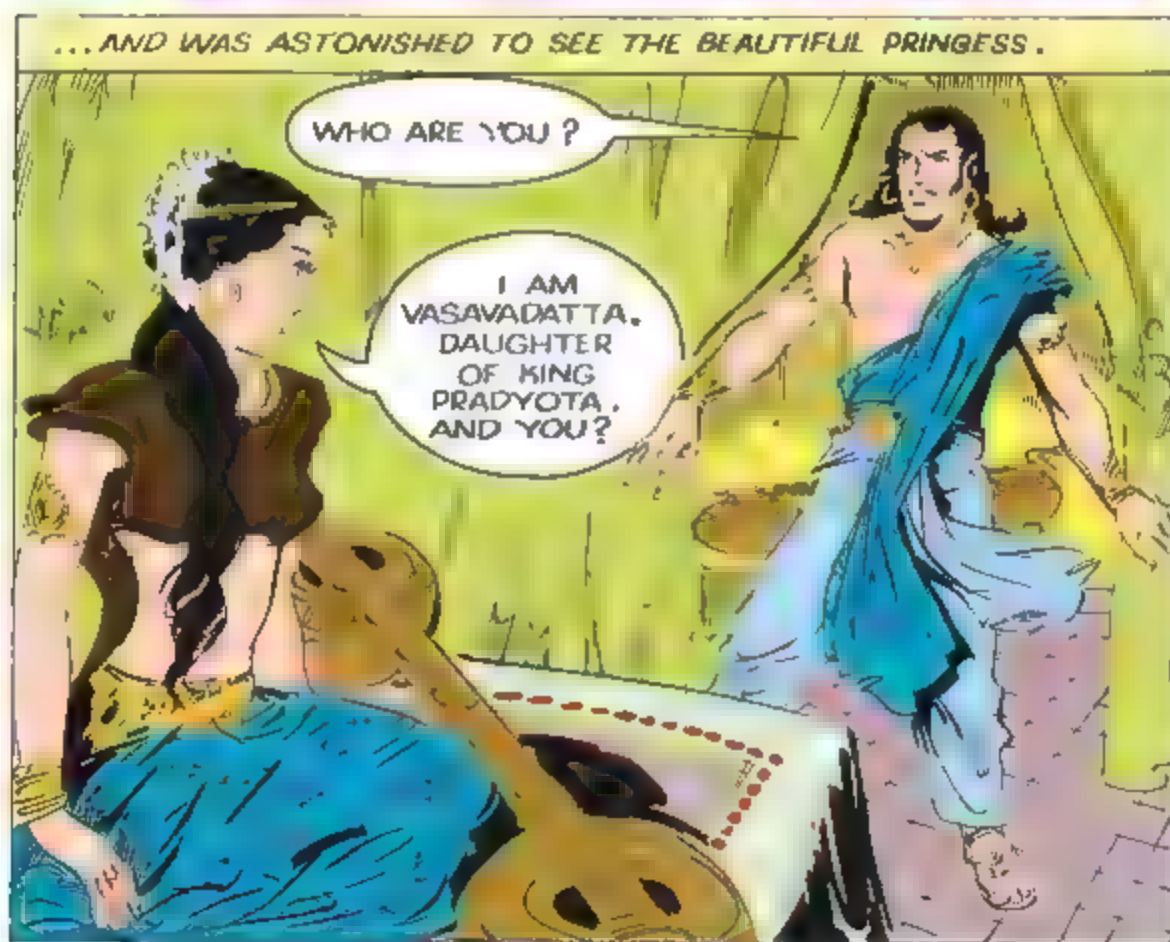
YOU  
VILLAIN  
OF A  
LEPER!  
HOW DARE  
YOU  
CALL ME  
A HUNCH-  
BACK?



UDAYANA LIFTED THE FRINGE OF THE CURTAIN...



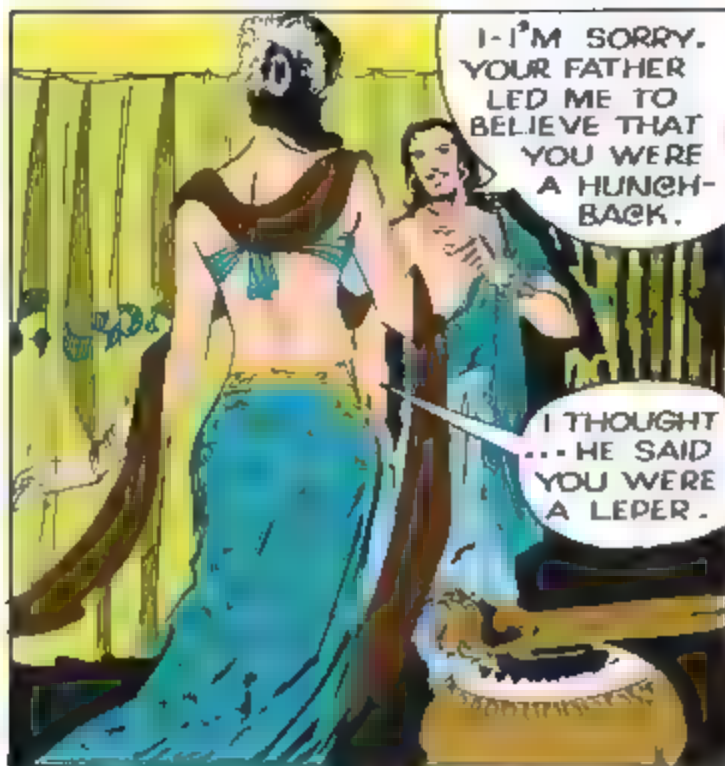
...AND WAS ASTONISHED TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS.



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM  
VASAVADATTA,  
DAUGHTER  
OF KING  
PRADYOTA,  
AND YOU?





THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED. BOTH FELL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER  
AND STARTED MEETING SECRETLY WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF  
KING PRADYOTA.



ONE DAY, KING PRADYOTA CAME TO VASAVADATTA'S CHAMBER.

DEAR DAUGHTER,  
HAVE YOU  
MASTERED  
THE CHANT ?

NOT YET,  
FATHER.



IF YOU  
NEED MY HELP,  
YOU HAVE ONLY  
TO ASK  
FOR IT.

THANK  
YOU,  
FATHER.



NEXT DAY, VASAVADATTA FOUND  
UDAYANA IN A PENSIVE MOOD.

WHY DO YOU  
LOOK SO SAD ?  
WHAT IS THE  
MATTER ?

HOW LONG  
CAN I REMAIN  
A CAPTIVE ?  
BESIDES YOUR  
FATHER WILL NOT  
HESITATE TO  
KILL ME IF HE  
LEARNS OF  
OUR LOVE.







THE KING READILY ACCOEDED TO HIS DAUGHTER'S REQUEST AND AN ELEPHANT WAS PLACED AT HER DISPOSAL.







BUT WHEN KING PRADYOTA HEARD THE STRANGE REQUEST...

I THINK, THIS  
MUST BE A RUSE  
WORKED OUT BY  
UDAYANA TO  
ESCAPE FROM  
HERE.

VERY  
WELL, A  
GATE WILL  
BE LEFT  
OPEN

THANK  
YOU,  
FATHER.

THE KING CALLED FOR HIS SPIES.

LISTEN  
CAREFULLY.  
DON'T LET KING  
UDAYANA KNOW  
THAT HE IS BEING  
FOLLOWED.  
CAPTURE HIM  
ONLY IF HE  
TRIES TO  
RUN AWAY.

AS YOU  
WISH, YOUR  
MAJESTY.

KING UDAYANA MOUNTED THE ELEPHANT,  
AND WENT TO THE FOREST.



SO FOR THREE SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS, UDAYANA PRETENDED TO  
LOOK FOR THE HERBS.



THE SPIES WERE THROWN OFF THEIR GUARD  
AND WERE NOT ALERT ANY MORE.

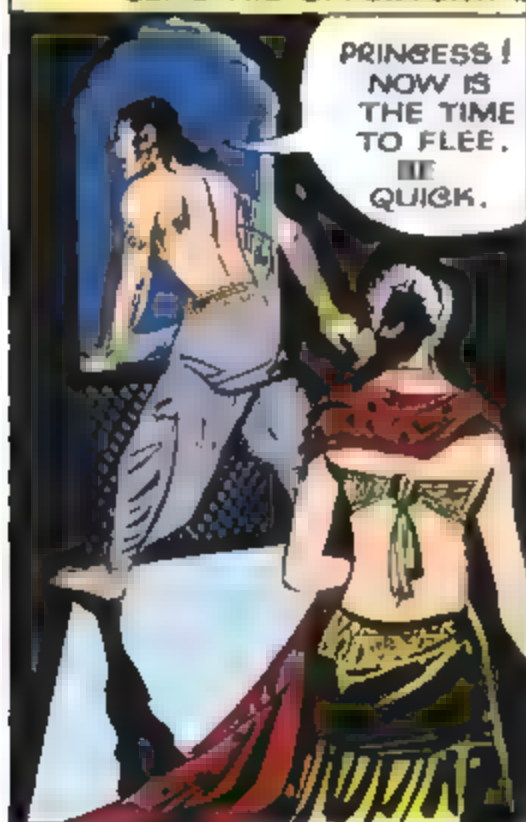




ON THE FOURTH NIGHT, KING PRADYOTA WAS AMUSING HIMSELF  
IN THE PALACE GARDEN.



UDAYANA WAS QUICK TO  
SEIZE HIS OPPORTUNITY.



VASAVADATTA ALSO MOUNTED THE  
ELEPHANT.

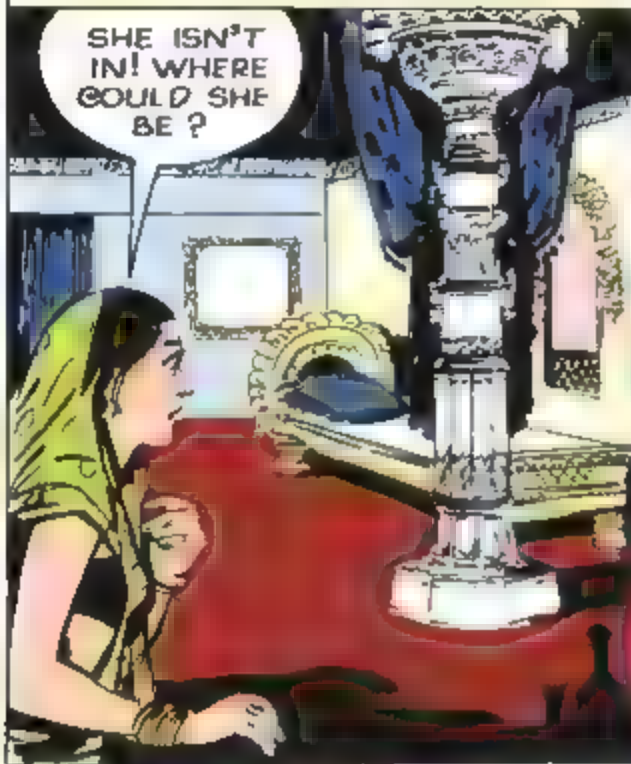






AFTER SOME TIME,  
A MAID-SERVANT WENT TO THE  
CHAMBER OF VASAVADATTA.

SHE ISN'T  
IN! WHERE  
COULD SHE  
BE?



THE SERVANTS SEARCHED  
FRANTICALLY.

NO, SHE  
ISN'T  
HERE  
EITHER!

WE MUST  
REPORT THIS  
TO THE KING  
IMMEDIATELY.



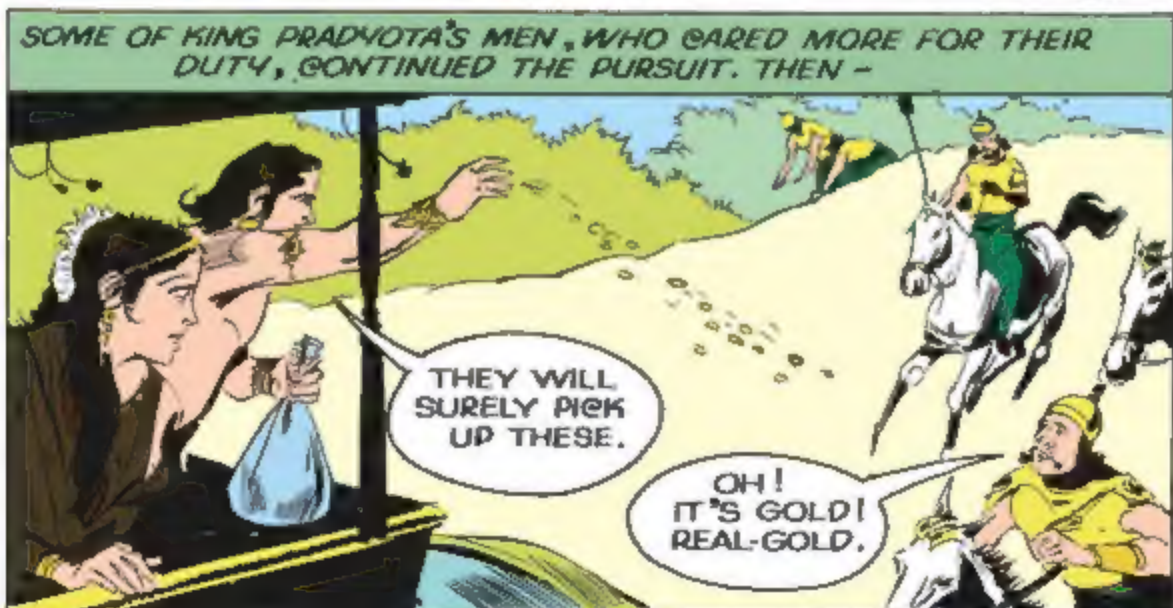
WHEN THE KING HEARD IT -

GO QUICKLY  
AND BRING THEM  
TO ME, DEAD OR  
ALIVE!



VERY SOON -







BY THEN KING UDAYANA HAD REACHED THE BORDERS OF UJJAINI.

IT IS OUR KING!  
LET US RUSH  
TO HIS HELP.

UDAYANA'S MINISTER WHO HAD BEEN  
IN TROUBLE WITH HIM ALL THESE DAYS,  
WAS THERE TO RECEIVE HIM.

THE TIRED AND EXHAUSTED SOLDIERS OF KING PRADYOTA WERE  
EASILY OVERPOWERED BY KING UDAYANA'S MEN.





BACK IN KAUSHAMBI,  
KING UDAYANA WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY HIS PEOPLE.



PRINCESS VASAVADATTA WAS MARRIED TO HIM AMIDST GREAT REJOICING.





# VASAVADATTA

King Udayana may have been imprisoned, but his mind roamed free. Udayana could charm even the beasts of the forest with his music. Vasavadatta, the beautiful daughter of his captor, inspired him to escape the shackles of his enemy. An example of kshatriya honour and passion, their romance has been described by Indian poets and bards since ancient times.

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